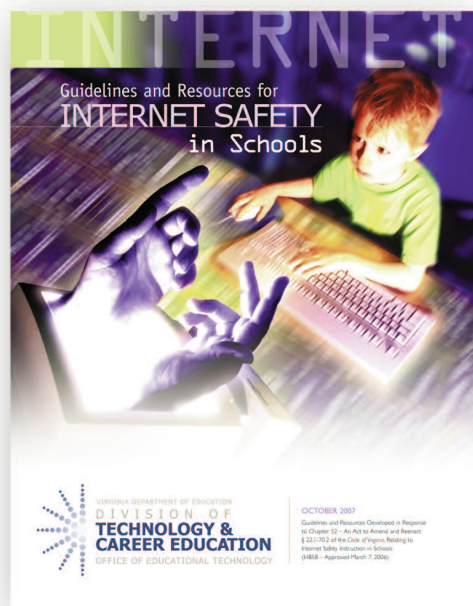


AN OVERVIEW OF VIRGINIA'S INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM

June 2008

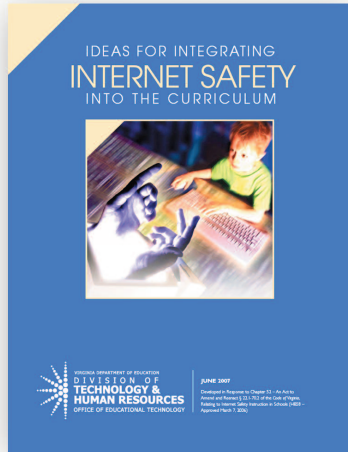
House Bill 58, introduced by Delegate William H. Fralin, Jr., and passed by the 2006 Virginia General Assembly, was signed into law by Governor Timothy Kaine on March 7, 2006. This new law made Virginia the first state in the nation to require Internet safety to be integrated into all instructional programs statewide. The law expanded the existing code, which was adopted in 1999. The existing code defined acceptable use policies and practices and required the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue Internet safety guidelines to school divisions.

The Virginia Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology was charged with developing a guidance document for local school divisions and assisting school divisions in implementing their Internet safety programs. Following is a summary of the products and services that have been provided by the Office of Educational Technology:



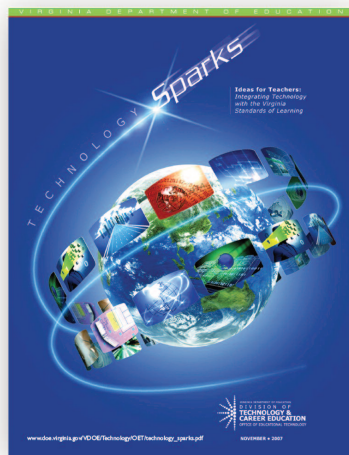
The cornerstone of Virginia's initiative in Internet safety education is the *Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety in Schools*. This document provides guidance to local school divisions who must comply with the Virginia law passed in 2006 requiring schools to integrate Internet safety into their curriculum. Because the issue of Internet safety involves so many different stakeholders, the guidelines are organized to address the needs and concerns of each. The document is published online so that it may be updated as changes in the law or the Internet environment make edits necessary.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/information-brief.pdf>



Because schools are being asked to integrate Internet safety into their regular curriculum rather than simply offer stand-alone programs, each division has been charged with developing a locally appropriate program. *Ideas for Integrating Internet Safety Into the Curriculum* was developed to demonstrate how Internet safety could easily be taught within the context of the Virginia Standards of Learning.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/internet-safety-integrating.pdf>



Technology Sparks was created to help Virginia teachers in grades 6-8 integrate the Computer/Technology Standards of Learning with the Standards of Learning for core curricular areas. The document also includes strategies for integrating Internet safety into those same lessons.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/technology_sparks.pdf



The Virginia Department of Education is the rollout partner for Thinkfinity in Virginia. As such, the Department has leveraged this free educator resource to assist schools as they develop their Internet safety programs. Thinkfinity contains excellent lesson plans that demonstrate how Internet safety can be integrated into the regular curriculum.

<http://www.thinkfinity.org>



The Virginia Department of Education teamed up with Pokémon Learning League to develop *Internet Safety and You*, a Web-based suite of animated, interactive lessons for elementary students based on Virginia's *Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety in Schools*. During the 2007-08 school year, nearly 3,000 fourth graders throughout Virginia participated in a pilot program.

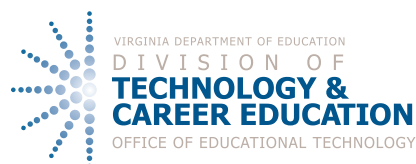
<http://www.pokemonlearningleague.com/internet/>

Division Implementation Rubric for §22.1-70.2 Acceptable Internet use policies for public and private schools. [1999, c. 64; 2001, c. 209; 2006, c. 52, 474.]

Code Requirement	Policy Expectations	Program Intent	Policy Expectations
A. Every two years, each school superintendent shall file with the Superintendent of Public Instruction an acceptable use policy (AUP) approved by the local school board for the Internet.	Documentation indicates that every two years, the district superintendent has filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction an AUP approved by the local school board for the Internet.	Documentation indicates that the district superintendent is in the process of reviewing the district's AUP. The revised AUP document has not been filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction.	Documentation is not available to indicate that the district superintendent has filed the Superintendent of Public Instruction an AUP.
As a minimum, the policy shall contain provisions that it is designed to protect and to define the district's computer equipment and communication services for teaching, learning, training, or disseminating digital material on the Internet.	The AUP contains provisions to protect and to define the district's computer equipment and communication services for teaching, learning, training, or disseminating digital material on the Internet.	The AUP contains provisions to protect and to define the district's computer equipment for digital content. However, the definition of digital content is not specific to include teaching, learning, training, or disseminating digital material on the Internet.	The AUP does not contain provisions to protect and to define the district's computer equipment and communication services for teaching, learning, training, or disseminating digital material on the Internet.
As a minimum, the policy shall contain provisions that it shall be posted on the school district's website in a readily accessible location as defined in §16.2-272.	The district's policy contains provisions that it shall be posted on the school district's website in a readily accessible location as defined in §16.2-272.	The district's policy contains a statement that the district will seek to post the policy on its website in a readily accessible location as defined in §16.2-272. However, the policy does not clearly specify provisions to be posted on the website.	There is no evidence that the district seeks to post the policy on its website in a readily accessible location as defined in §16.2-272.
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The policy may include such other terms, conditions, and provisions as deemed appropriate.	OPINION: Districts are encouraged to.	N/A	N/A

As required by law, all school divisions must submit a revised acceptable use policy that includes an Internet safety policy and an outline of their integration program to the Department by September 2008. To assist divisions in determining the extent to which their new policies and programs are in compliance, *Division Implementation Rubrics for Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Program* was created. This rubric describes specific expectations for each requirement as stated in the law.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/internet-safety-rubrics.pdf>



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